

Allergen Guidelines

The Brookings School District is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. The Brookings Administration understands the increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies among school age population. Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to allergens can be reduced in the school setting, the Brookings School District is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians, to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. The focus of allergy management shall be a prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response.

Identification of students with food allergies or other serious health issues

When a student enters the Brookings School District or if there is a change in the student's health parents will be requested to complete a health form http://lb021.k12.sd.us/health_questionnaires.htm. This form will alert the nurse of any health conditions that warrant further information. If this information is an allergy, a treatment plan <http://lb021.k12.sd.us/documents/Severe%20Allergy%20Action%20Plan9-3-10.pdf> will be completed by parent/guardian, school nurse and doctor, if medication is necessary.

Health concerns parents submit to the nurse will be distributed to staff within the first days of school to alert staff of any concerns.

At the elementary school level (K-5) every attempt will be made, within the first two weeks of school, to place a sticker, with the student's picture and explanation of condition, on the back of the classroom teacher's photo ID (i.e. serious allergies requiring use of epi pen, diabetes, seizures or other serious condition). Lunch room supervisors will also be made aware of any known student food allergies.

Education

The staff will be trained and retrained by nurses every year in all buildings as to the risk of accidental, exposure to allergens in the schools, and as to the proper use of epi pens. The staff will be educated to recognize symptoms of exposure, and know the district's protocol if exposure occurs. A PowerPoint, http://www.nhschoolnurses.org/files/epipen_administration82904.ppt, explaining the use of epi pens and how to use them will be sent via email to each of the staff members at the beginning of the school year. After viewing this PowerPoint, the staff will be expected to demonstrate the proper administration of an epi pen; using a trainer epi pen to the nurse. Teachers in Grades K-5 will view the video, "Managing Food Allergies in the School" at the start of each new school year.

Cafeteria

- The Brookings School District will not knowingly serve peanut products in its lunchrooms and will ban all peanut products in vending machines.
- The District will discourage students and staff from bringing peanut products to school

- The District will identify specific peanut and peanut free zones or make other accommodations agreed upon by principal and parent/guardian.
- The District will encourage hand washing before and after breakfast, lunch and snacks.
- The District will discourage trading of food or sharing of utensils.
- The District will be vigilant of “food bullying” when harassment occurs, prompt and effective disciplinary action will be taken.
- The District will monitor and enforce strict cleaning and sanitation policies and procedures. Staff will be trained to use commercial cleaning solutions on tabletops and develop food handling and preparation protocols to avoid cross-contamination.

Classroom

All treats brought to the school and brought into the classroom should be healthy and peanut free. Classrooms containing students with known allergens will have treats approved on a case by case basis, depending on the individual student’s specific allergies. (Signs will be posted in K-3 buildings in all classrooms to remind parents that classrooms are peanut free.)